

July 19, 2010

Photo: Seated from SSB Ash Hodge, Maglan Richardson and Alkins Rogers. Standing are the representatives of the recipient organizations.

Social Security Board donates US\$60,000 to several youth projects

ANGUILLA—At a press briefing on Monday July 19 the Social Security Board (SSB) presented cheques to five organizations involved with youth and education. Deputy Chairman of the Board, Alkins Rogers said that the SSB is happy to make the presentations as they are embarking on a new focus—youth and the development of education. A total of US\$60,000 is being presented by the Board and this comes from the Social Security Development Fund. 3.75% of all contributions received by the Board go into this fund to be used for development on the island.

Maglan Richardson, Acting Director of the SSB said that the Board has always considered education, health and sports as most important for the island's development and the sustainability of the Board itself. She congratulated the recipients for the work that they are doing.

Her Majesty's Prison was the recipient of US\$29,685.00 that was received by Shariffa Wallace, the Rehabilitation and Development Coordinator at the prison, who extended thanks on behalf of the prison. She outlined some of the projects that are planned for the prisoners. She said that the funds will be used for furnishings and materials to enable a classroom environment for education and several courses are being planned. It will also be used to develop a library and provide the necessary text books. Vocational skills are also being taught so that prisoners can develop trades and skills whilst in prison.

The Department of Youth and Culture received US\$2,240.00 towards the Youth Escape programme for the summer vacation. The coordinator of the summer programme, Shellya Rogers described the programme that includes workshops in photography, culinary arts, water colour painting and music.

The Camp Be Aware summer camp received US\$5,000.00 from the SSB and Linda Gratton, who has been involved in the camp since 2000, a year after it started, stressed the importance of helping children to be aware of the environment and the need to protect it. She said that since the start of the camp more than 500 children have benefitted from it and it has made an important imprint on the students who take part.

The Anguilla Volleyball Association was represented by President Winston Duncan who thanked the SSB for the donation of US\$1500.00 that they received. He reported that it will assist the national team in participating in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Championship. He said that his Association assists schools with equipment and plans are in place for a sports court at the Webster Park with shock absorbent tiles that will be used for special tournaments.

Rogers outlined some of the other contributions that are planned by the Board. They have already approved the sum of US\$12,500.00 for a six week training course at State University of

New York in Cobleskill, for five early childhood teachers. US\$5,768 has already been presented to the Department of Education for the literacy programme in the six primary schools. In addition the SSB is giving the Anguilla Tennis Academy US\$1000.00 towards the summer camp and the Cycling Association US\$2,275.00 for trophies for the John T Memorial Cycling Race.